



Justice for VICTIMS

Justice for ALL

National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVWRW) is an annual observance to bring the victim assistance community together to raise public awareness about victims' rights, protections, and services. This year's theme "Justice for Victims. Justice for All.," summons the nation to make justice for all victims a national priority. Our task is to convince our fellow Americans to join us in achieving this goal. The *2008 NCVRW Resource Guide* offers useful tools to share National Crime Victims' Rights Week messages with the widest possible audience.

The Maximizing Communication and Awareness section helps communities plan activities, visual displays, and public statements to increase the impact of their National Crime Victims' Rights Week observances. These resources can help you prepare speeches, proclamations, and events that show why justice for victims advances the national ideal of justice for all.

Commemorative Calendar

Our nation, states, and communities observe many annual events that focus on specific crimes (e.g., domestic violence, sexual assault), honor law enforcement agencies (e.g., National Police Week, National Correctional Officers' Week), or promote public service (e.g., National Youth Service Days, National Mentoring Month). The commemorative calendar lists the dates of many of these observances, as well as contact information for the primary sponsor of each event. This calendar can simplify your planning and suggest potential partners for National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

OVC Events Calendar. The Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice offers an excellent, constantly updated calendar to help victims, victim service providers, allied professionals, and other interested individuals plan, promote, and locate events of interest to the victim services community in your area. Organizations are welcome to include national, state, and local victim-related

events on the calendar, and provide links to additional information. You can browse the listings and search for and add information about your own conferences, meetings, training sessions, ceremonies, or other upcoming events. (Access the calendar by visiting <http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/ovccalendar>.)

Notable Quotables

This section lists famous quotations that you can use in speeches, statements, and outreach materials to place this year's theme, "Justice for Victims. Justice for All.," in historical and cultural context. The words of famous thinkers can anchor and deepen your thinking about the concept of justice for all. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s famous "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere," for example, eloquently captures the meaning and significance of the 2008 theme—offering a powerful springboard for any statement on National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

Sample Proclamation

National Crime Victims' Rights Week ceremonies often include proclamations from public officials—governors, mayors, or county council chairpersons—recognizing the human impact of crime and committing their jurisdictions to raise awareness of victims' rights and needs during that week. Officials often hold public signings of these proclamations and invite sponsoring agencies and local media to attend the event. To request formal proclamations, contact your government officials' offices **at least one month in advance**, and plan to feature the proclamations in your promotional literature and events.

Sample Speech

National Crime Victims' Rights Week is an opportunity to educate your community about victims' issues. Many ceremonies, conferences, training sessions, and observances call for speeches and statements that explore the year's theme and

Maximizing Communication and Awareness

explain victims' needs. This year's versatile theme, "Justice for Victims. Justice for All.," reminds our nation that victims' concerns affect everyone because we are all vulnerable to crime. Appeal to your audience—students; church organizations; the Rotary, Lions, or Kiwanis Clubs; the League of Women Voters; or local businesses and hospitals—by choosing issues that directly affect them. A downtown civic organization might want to hear about homicides and witness intimidation, for example, and the local chamber of commerce about identity theft. You can start with a story about an actual or fictionalized victim with whom your audience might identify. Use your speech to describe the problem and propose some realistic steps your community might take to help solve it. Adapt the sample speech to engage your listeners in seeking *justice for victims* and *justice for all*.

Extend Your Reach through Partnerships

Partnerships allow both large and small organizations to expand their resources and their outreach for National Crime Victims' Rights Week. By working with professionals in allied fields, corporations and businesses, schools, civic organizations, public agencies, and faith communities, you can plan, advertise, and maximize the impact of your observance. Once your organization decides to participate in the week's events, identify potential partners, contact them right away, and explore ways to cosponsor the best National Crime Victims' Rights Week your community has ever observed.

Ideas for Special Events

Communities adopt unique strategies—through media outreach, ceremonies,

arts and crafts, festivals and outings, contests, displays, or athletic events—to observe National Crime Victims' Rights Week. Each year, the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, offers Community Awareness Project grants to encourage and support such creativity. Last year, through a cooperative agreement with the National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators (NAVAA), OVC competitively

selected 64 public agencies, nonprofit programs, community-based victim service organizations, faith-based organizations, and community coalitions to receive these grants. You can visit NAVAA's Web site (<http://cap.navaa.org>) for ideas on how these communities planned their National Crime Victims' Rights Week events. Some of these ideas appear among the more than 30 special-event ideas featured in this Resource Guide. ■

Tips for Using the Theme DVD

Take a moment to review the DVD accompanying this year's Resource Guide. It includes two high-quality videos—a 5-minute feature and a 30-second television public service announcement (PSA)—that you can use in special-event and media outreach activities.

Ideas for using the Theme DVD:

- Use the 5-minute video to open a news conference on victims' rights.
- Incorporate the video into activities you are already planning for National Crime Victims' Rights Week. (It's a powerful way to begin a candlelight vigil, panel discussion, or reception at your facility.)
- Create your own public awareness event around a special screening of the video.
- Encourage allied professionals to show the video at staff meetings and board retreats.
- Encourage faith-based organizations to use the video in their social justice outreach work.
- Share the video with local media as a catalyst to encourage coverage of events during National Crime Victims' Rights Week. (Let your broadcasting friends know they are welcome to use clips of the longer video in their features.)
- Send the PSA to local TV stations to promote the week or your own events. Space is included at the end of the PSA to add local contact information; many stations will add this additional information for you (See script on page 5 in Section 4: Working with the Media.)

Tips for holding your own screening:

- Choose a location where your audience will be comfortable watching the video. It should be quiet and dark, with seating if possible.
- You will need a DVD player, good speakers, and a large monitor or screen to properly show the video at an event. If you do not have your own equipment, you can rent these items from a professional audiovisual company. You can also choose a location with an in-house system. (Many hotels, schools, libraries, and conference facilities provide this service.)

2008 COMMEMORATIVE CALENDAR

The most effective outreach efforts are those that continue beyond a single day, week, or month. Fortunately, as this commemorative calendar shows, opportunities abound throughout the year to educate your community about the impact of crime and the ongoing need to help victims rebuild their lives.

JANUARY

CRIME STOPPERS MONTH

Crime Stoppers International
800-850-7574
www.c-s-i.org

NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH

MENTOR
703-224-2200
www.mentoring.org

NATIONAL STALKING AWARENESS MONTH

National Center for Victims of Crime
Stalking Resource Center
202-467-8700
www.ncvc.org/src

FEBRUARY

NATIONAL TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS WEEK

February 4-8, 2008
Texas Advocacy Project, Teen Justice Initiative
512-225-9579
www.texasadvocacyproject.org

MARCH

NATIONAL YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION WEEK

March 31-April 4, 2008
National Association of Students Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE) and GuidanceChannel.com
800-999-6884 ext. 3037
www.violencepreventionweek.org

APRIL

NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

Prevent Child Abuse America
312-663-3520
www.preventchildabuse.org

NATIONAL SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

National Sexual Violence Resource Center
717-909-0710, 717-909-0715 (TTY)
www.nsvrc.org

NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

April 13-19, 2008
U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime
800-851-3420
www.ovc.gov/ncvrw

NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE DAYS

April 25-27, 2008
Youth Service America
202-296-2992
www.ysa.org

MAY

OLDER AMERICANS' MONTH

Administration on Aging, Department of Health and Human Services
800-877-8339
www.aoa.gov

NATIONAL LAW DAY

May 1, 2008
American Bar Association
312-988-5000
www.abanet.org

NATIONAL CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES' WEEK

May 4-10, 2008
American Correctional Association
800-222-5646
www.aca.org

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

May 11-17, 2008
Concerns of Police Survivors, Inc.
573-346-4911
www.nationalcops.org

NATIONAL PEACE OFFICERS' MEMORIAL DAY

May 15, 2008
Concerns of Police Survivors, Inc.
573-346-4911
www.nationalcops.org

NATIONAL MISSING CHILDREN'S DAY

May 25, 2008
National Center for Missing and Exploited Children
800-843-5678
www.missingkids.com

JULY

NATIONAL PROBATION, PAROLE, AND COMMUNITY SUPERVISION WEEK

July 13-19, 2008
American Probation and Parole Association
859-244-8203
www.appa-net.org

2008 COMMEMORATIVE CALENDAR

AUGUST

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

August 5, 2008

National Association of Town Watch

800-NITE-OUT

www.nationaltownwatch.org

SEPTEMBER

NATIONAL CAMPUS SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH

Security On Campus, Inc.

888-251-7959

www.securityoncampus.org

NATIONAL YOUTH COURT MONTH

National Association of Youth Courts

410-528-0143

www.youthcourt.net

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK

September 7-13, 2008

American Association of Suicidology

202-237-2280

www.suicidology.org

NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR MURDER VICTIMS

September 25, 2008

National Organization of Parents

Of Murdered Children, Inc.

888-818-POMC

www.pomc.org

OCTOBER

NATIONAL CRIME PREVENTION MONTH

National Crime Prevention Council

202-466-6272

www.ncpc.org

NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

National Coalition Against

Domestic Violence

303-839-1852

www.ncadv.org

WEEK WITHOUT VIOLENCE

October 12-18, 2008

YWCA of the USA

202-467-0801

[www.kintera.org/htmlcontent.asp?cid=](http://www.kintera.org/htmlcontent.asp?cid=61781)

61781

AMERICA'S SAFE SCHOOLS WEEK

October 19-25, 2008

National School Safety Center

805-373-9977

www.nssc1.org

NATIONAL BULLYING PREVENTION AND AWARENESS WEEK

October 19-25, 2008

PACER Center, National Coalition

for Parent Involvement in Education,

National Education Association,

and National PTA

952-838-9000, 952-838-0190 (TTY)

www.pacerkidsagainstbullying.org

NOVEMBER

MADD, TIE ONE ON FOR SAFETY

Mothers Against Drunk Driving

800-GET-MADD

www.madd.org

DECEMBER

NATIONAL DRUNK AND DRUGGED DRIVING PREVENTION MONTH

Mothers Against Drunk Driving

800-GET-MADD

www.madd.org



NOTABLE QUOTABLES

“Justice for Victims. Justice for All.” serves to remind us that this country’s founding principle of *liberty and justice for all* cannot be fully realized until our nation ensures justice for each and every victim of crime. The following quotations can inspire us to continue the noble fight for rights, protections, and resources that help victims achieve justice and rebuild their lives. These quotations, drawn from a wide array of great thinkers and leaders, can be integrated into speeches, announcements, news releases, and other outreach efforts during National Crime Victims’ Rights Week and throughout the year.

“We must remember that a right lost to one is lost to all.”

William Reece Smith, Jr. (1925 –)

“Justice is truth in action.”

Benjamin Disraeli (1804 – 1881)

“All the great things are simple, and many can be expressed in a single word: freedom; justice; honor; duty; mercy; hope.”

Winston Churchill (1874 – 1965)

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.”

Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929 – 1968)

“It is reasonable that everyone who asks justice should do justice.”

Thomas Jefferson (1743 – 1826)

“To do injustice is the greatest of all evils.”

Plato (427 – 347 BC)

“As long as justice and injustice have not terminated their ever renewing fight for ascendancy in the affairs of mankind, human beings must be willing, when need is, to do battle for the one against the other.”

John Stuart Mill (1806 – 1873)

“Truth is the summit of being; justice is the application of it to affairs.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803 – 1882)

“The mighty Oak was once a little nut that stood its ground.”

Anonymous

“Fairness is what justice really is.”

Potter Stewart (1915 – 1985)

“The only stable state is the one in which all men are equal before the law.”

Aristotle (384 BC – 322 BC)

“All who have accomplished great things have had a great aim, have fixed their gaze on a goal which was high, one which sometimes seemed impossible.”

Orison Swett Marden (1850 – 1924)

“If we are facing in the right direction, all we have to do is keep on walking.”

Buddhist Saying

“Dream no small dreams for they have no power to move the hearts of men.”

Goethe (1749 – 1832)

“Any time we deny any citizen the full exercise of his constitutional rights, we are weakening our own claim to them.”

Dwight D. Eisenhower (1890 – 1969)

“In giving rights to others which belong to them, we give rights to ourselves and to our country.”

John Fitzgerald Kennedy (1917 – 1963)

NOTABLE QUOTABLES

“The public good is in nothing more essentially interested than in the protection of every individual’s private rights.”

William Blackstone (1723 – 1780)

“What is true of every member of the society, individually, is true of them all collectively; since the rights of the whole can be no more than the sum of the rights of the individuals.”

Thomas Jefferson (1743 – 1826)

“The freedom of each individual can only be the freedom of all.”

Friedrich Durrenmatt (1921 – 1990)

“Of all the tasks of government, the most basic is to protect its citizens from violence.”

John Foster Dulles (1888 – 1959)

“We don’t accomplish anything in this world alone... and whatever happens is the result of the whole tapestry of one’s life and all the weavings of individual threads from one to another that creates something.”

Sandra Day O’Connor (1930 –)

“I have learned this at least by my experiment: that if one advances confidently in the direction of his dreams, and endeavors to live the life which he has imagined, he will meet with a success unexpected in common hours.”

Henry David Thoreau (1817 – 1862)

“The longest journey starts with a single step.”

Lao Tse (6th Century BC)



National Crime Victims' Rights Week

April 13 – 19, 2008

- Whereas,** 23 million Americans are victims of crime each year, and of those, 5.2 million are victims of violent crime;¹ and
- Whereas,** a just society acknowledges crime's impact on individuals, families, and communities by ensuring that rights, resources, and services are available to help rebuild lives;
- Whereas,** victims' rights are a critical component of the promise of "justice for all," the foundation for our system of justice in America;
- Whereas,** although our nation has steadily expanded rights, protections, and services for victims of crime, too many victims are still not able to realize the hope and promise of these gains;
- Whereas,** we must do better to ensure services are available for underserved segments of our population, including crime victims with disabilities, victims with mental illness, victims who are teenagers, victims who are elderly, victims in rural areas, and victims in communities of color; and
- Whereas,** observing victims' rights and treating victims with dignity and respect serves the public interest by engaging victims in the justice system, inspiring respect for public authorities, and promoting confidence in public safety; and
- Whereas,** America recognizes that we make our homes, neighborhoods, and communities safer and stronger by serving victims of crime and ensuring justice for all; and
- Whereas,** Our nation must strive to protect, expand, and observe crime victims' rights so that there truly is *justice for victims* and *justice for all*; and
- Whereas,** National Crime Victims' Rights Week—April 13-19, 2008—provides an opportunity for us to strive to reach the goal of justice for all by ensuring that all victims are afforded their legal rights and provided with assistance as they face the financial, physical, and psychological impact of crime; and
- Whereas,** [Your Organization] is joining forces with victim service programs, criminal justice officials, and concerned citizens throughout [Your City/County/Parish/State/Tribe] and America to raise awareness about victims' rights and observe the 28th National Crime Victims' Rights Week;

Now, therefore, I, _____, as [Governor/County Executive/Mayor, etc.] of _____, do hereby proclaim the week of April 13-19, 2008, as

National Crime Victims' Rights Week

And reaffirm this [City/County/Parish/State/Tribe's] commitment to respect and enforce victims' rights and address their needs during *National Crime Victims' Rights Week* and throughout the year; and

Express our appreciation for those victims and crime survivors who have turned personal tragedy into a motivating force to improve our response to victims of crime and build a more just community.

_____ (signature)

_____ (date)

¹Shannan M. Catalano, "Criminal Victimization, 2005," (Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2006), 1, <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/cv05.pdf>, (accessed October 15, 2007).

SAMPLE SPEECH

Justice for Victims Advances Justice for All

Imagine that your sister has been murdered. While walking home from work one evening, she was robbed, shot, and left to bleed to death. Although the police arrested her murderer, you received no notice about the arraignment, continuances, or other critical events in the case. The defendant was charged with first-degree murder but then—as the case entered its third year—allowed to plead guilty to a lesser charge. Your family was not allowed to deliver an impact statement at the sentencing. Then, while the convicted killer was serving his 15-year sentence, you received no notifications when he was up for parole. How would you feel?

Until the past few decades, victims of crime and their families regularly endured such disappointments and injustices. Then in 1982, President Ronald Reagan established the Presidential Task Force on Victims of Crime, which held hearings throughout the nation and recommended better protections for victims' rights. Every state and the federal government has established statutory rights for victims, and to date, 33 states have amended their constitutions to protect those rights. Now the Justice for All Act, passed by Congress in 2004, grants victims new rights in federal proceedings and the legal standing to have those rights enforced. This landmark legislation culminates more than two decades of progress for victims of crime.

Yet despite these advances, victims still face significant hurdles to attaining real justice. Victims are often not treated with respect by prosecutors and judges; they are not notified about key deliberations in their criminal case; they fail to access the victim compensation to which they are entitled; and they continue to struggle without services that will help

them recover from the trauma of crime. National Crime Victims' Rights Week challenges us to ask what justice means to victims and how we can move closer to achieving the ideal of justice for all.

What justice means to victims is both complex and varied, but most victims of crime express the same priorities. They want to be safe and made whole. They want their physical and emotional wounds healed and their property restored. They want offenders held accountable for their crimes, and they want to take part in the process that holds them responsible. They want their communities to stand respectfully behind them as they strive to rebuild their lives.

What steps can our nation take to meet these needs?

First, we can acknowledge that crime affects everyone. As the September 11 terrorist attacks, the Virginia Tech massacre, and the 23 million crimes committed each year remind us, crime can strike anyone.¹ The impact of crime—such as drive-by shootings, domestic violence, or even identity theft—leaves families, friends, coworkers, neighbors, and entire communities less secure. In addition to the human impact of crime, the financial cost of crime is staggering. In 2005, the total economic loss to victims was \$1.4 billion for violent crime and \$15.6 billion for property crime.² The annual cost of identity theft in 2003 was \$5 billion.³ In addition to these costs, the cost of crime to society—for law enforcement, prosecution, and corrections; lost wages and productivity; and increased insurance costs—is incalculable. These facts show why justice for victims should concern everyone.

Second, we can recognize that victims' rights promote

¹Shannan M. Catalano, "Criminal Victimization, 2005," (Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2006), 1, <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/cv05.pdf>, (accessed October 9, 2007).

²Bureau of Justice Statistics, "Criminal Victimization in the United States, 2005: Statistical Tables," (Washington, DC: GPO, 2006), Table 82, <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/cvus05.pdf>, (accessed September 14, 2007).

³Synovate, "Federal Trade Commission—Identity Theft Survey Report," (September 2003), 6-7, http://www.consumer.gov/idtheft/pdf/synovate_report.pdf, (accessed October 10, 2007).

justice—both for victims and the community. In states where legal protections for victims are strong, victims are more likely to know their rights, participate in the criminal justice system, view criminal justice officials favorably, and express more overall satisfaction with the system.⁴ Jurisdictions that honor victims’ rights—to a speedy trial, for example—reduce the risk of witness intimidation and promote a swift and sure response to crime. Authorities that notify victims of changes in the status of their offenders promote victim safety, help prevent further crime, and encourage victims to stay involved in the case. Courts that order restitution to victims and enforce these orders hold offenders accountable to the victim and society. Honoring victims’ rights, then, serves both victims and the public interest.

Finally, we can serve victims more effectively. Those harmed by crime need help to understand their rights, negotiate the criminal justice system, and access needed services. Many jurisdictions have found innovative, victim-centered approaches to support victims and combat crime. The comprehensive, integrated, interagency programs set up throughout the country to reduce domestic violence are just one example of such promising approaches.

[SUGGESTION: Substitute an example from your community in place of the following two paragraphs.]

A recent case from a county outside Washington, DC, shows how such programs work. An interagency team of professionals from law enforcement and social service agencies in Montgomery County, Maryland, called ALERT (Assessment Lethality Emergency Responce Team), meets every week to review all protection order filings and determine the best way to support the victims and expedite the cases. In one case, for example, the team reviewed a protection order request from a woman whose husband had hit her

in the head with a rock and threatened to kill her and their children. While the victim sought only a protection order, the team recognized that she might be in more serious danger than she realized.

The victim advocate from the sheriff’s office met with the victim to explain that her husband had committed a crime and to ask if she wanted to file criminal charges. The victim then reported the crime to the police, who investigated and charged the husband with attempted murder. The child welfare department petitioned the court to remove the children from the father’s custody and prevent visitation. The prosecutor worked with the police in collecting evidence, and the Department of Health and Human Services helped the victim relocate to a shelter until the husband was arrested. The Department of Corrections pretrial staff monitored the husband, who had a series of mental health problems, to ensure that he received psychiatric services. When the defendant was sent to a psychiatric hospital for evaluation and escaped, the victim was notified and the defendant was recaptured. At last report, the defendant was awaiting trial, and the victim and her children were safe and doing well.

Such approaches, which mobilize all the community’s resources, are available on some level to all communities. Even without additional funding, each community can identify, assemble, and target resources to improve public safety while effectively supporting victims.

Seeking justice for victims serves our nation’s highest ideals. As we honor victims at ceremonies this National Crime Victims’ Rights Week, let us commit ourselves to serving them better every week of the year. By investing in *justice for victims*, we move closer to achieving *justice for all*. ■

⁴D. Kilpatrick, D. Beatty, S. Howley, *The Rights of Crime Victims—Does Legal Protection Make a Difference*, (Washington, DC: National Institute of Justice, 1998).

EXTEND YOUR REACH THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

“Justice for Victims. Justice for All.” is a lofty and demanding ideal. Moving our nation toward that ideal means building steadily on the progress victims have already made. National Crime Victims’ Rights Week offers an opportunity for victims and their advocates to join forces, identify shared objectives, and engage the community in meeting victims’ needs.

As you plan for National Crime Victims’ Rights Week, reach out to your established partners and then try to find a few more allies in the victim services and allied fields. Brainstorm with staff members and volunteers about potential partners, and check your community services directories for other organizations with missions that complement yours. Businesses, corporations, and civic organizations, for example, strongly promote public safety. Public officials, government agencies, and educational institutions want to support victims and reduce crime. The following list offers ideas on partnerships you might consider for 2008 National Crime Victims’ Rights Week.

Allied Professionals

You can form partnerships with professionals in criminal justice, social services, and health care to plan National Crime Victims’ Rights Week. Such professionals understand the hurdles confronting victims as they assert their rights and seek the services they need. Identify a few key issues your organization shares with these regular allies and develop a joint strategy for National Crime Victims’ Rights Week.

Law Enforcement Professionals, Prosecutors, and Corrections and Probation Officers

Criminal justice professionals offer powerful resources for outreach campaigns. They may provide their own spokespeople and printed materials for community education. Police departments may offer crime prevention education—security demonstrations, personal safety workshops, home

security checks, auto theft prevention strategies, and crime alert bulletins. Invite law enforcement spokespeople to participate in your educational forums, community day activities, and public service announcements. Prosecutors and corrections and probation officers can also offer prevention education about domestic violence, sexual assault, robbery, and other crimes that concern the community. Some communities have “business watch” coalitions, partnerships between businesses and law enforcement agencies to promote public safety. Ask these coalitions to help you plan events, support your outreach, and display NCVRW posters in their businesses.

Healthcare Professionals

Healthcare providers see the impact of crime firsthand when they treat victims of violence. Associations that represent healthcare professionals have a strong interest in preventing crime and pro-

moting public safety. Team up with your local medical and dental society, nurses’ association, and physical and occupational therapy groups to raise their members’ awareness about the signs and impact of violence. Invite your local hospitals to host information fairs and professional forums, display outreach posters and banners, and work with their board members to support and promote National Crime Victims’ Rights Week.

Mental Health Professionals

Mental health professionals know that crime can induce psychological trauma, and they may have victims of crime in their care. You can work with mental health professionals’ associations to raise their members’ awareness about the impact of crime. You can also supply these professionals with information about victims’ rights and services, safety planning, victim compensation, and other issues to share with their patients. Invite mental health professionals to join community anti-violence coalitions with counselors, teachers, school administrators, and parents. (See the American Psychological Association’s Act Against Violence program at <http://actagainstviolence.apa.org> for ideas about teaching violence prevention.) Mental health professionals can support your outreach through their professional publications and communications networks.

Powerful Partnership with U.S. Postal Inspection Service

For the third year in a row, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service (USPIS), in partnership with the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), a component of the Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, has devised a public awareness campaign to help raise awareness of crime victims’ rights and services that targets customers frequenting post offices around the nation during the month of April 2008. Posters highlighting National Crime Victims’ Rights Week will be displayed in major post offices throughout the country.

EXTEND YOUR REACH THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

Businesses and Corporations

Businesses make excellent National Crime Victims' Rights Week partners because they want safe environments for their customers, employees, and merchandise. They also gain respect and loyalty by supporting campaigns that help their communities. Businesses can offer resources, planning tools, advertising and marketing skills, and sites to display posters, banners, and other outreach materials for National Crime Victims' Rights Week. You can approach individual businesses or enlist entire segments of the business community by approaching groups that represent them.

Chambers of Commerce

Ask for a few minutes on the agenda of your local chamber of commerce meeting. Explain this year's theme, "Justice for Victims. Justice for All.," and invite the Chamber to contribute to the campaign. Ask for members' help in planning messages and designing coordinated outreach to the community. Send speakers to Chamber of Commerce events, and ask the Chamber to poll its members on how businesses might share in observing National Crime Victims' Rights Week. At your awards ceremony, present an award to the business leader or leaders who have distinguished themselves in helping victims and preventing crime.

Visitors' and Convention Bureaus

Because tourists want to visit safe cities, visitors' and convention bureaus have a strong interest in crime prevention and victim support. Partner with your local convention bureau both during National Crime Victims' Rights Week and throughout the year. Offer the bureau useful tools, such as palm

cards with crime prevention and victim assistance tips. Give it a list of resources—such as the National Center for Victims of Crime's National Crime Victim Helpline (1-800-FYI-CALL) and Web site, www.ncvc.org; the National Crime Prevention Council Web site, www.ncpc.org; or the Office for Victims of Crime Web site, www.ovc.gov—which they can use to help travelers protect themselves and know where to turn in an emergency. Invite them to help you plan, publicize, and observe National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

Civic Organizations

Millions of Americans serve their communities by donating their time and service to civic organizations. National Crime Victims' Rights Week planners can work with veterans' organizations, professional retirees' groups, parent-teacher organizations, arts and crafts clubs, Kiwanis and Rotary Clubs, museum and art gallery boards, volunteer political advisory boards, neighborhood watch groups, Boys and Girls Clubs, the YMCA, and other community organizations to plan and host events, distribute materials, and encourage their members to volunteer their services to observe National Crime Victims' Rights Week. Groups representing communities of color (e.g., Hispanic, Asian Caribbean, or African communities) can offer volunteers, translators, and guidance on the needs of their community's crime victims and the best avenues to reach them.

Community Development Agencies

Community development agencies have ties to a vast range of community businesses and organizations: city and county planners, builders, retailers, community neighborhood associations

and ethnic groups, banks, media, healthcare organizations, and government agencies. A call to your community development agency director or a meeting with the agency staff may generate all the contacts you need to identify partners for National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

Faith Communities

Churches, synagogues, mosques, and other houses of worship are natural allies for National Crime Victims' Rights Week planners. Many faith communities have social action committees that volunteer their time and skills for civic events. Such volunteers can help plan and conduct activities and outreach campaigns. Churches, dioceses, and interfaith councils often have sophisticated communications networks that can dramatically expand your National Crime Victims' Rights Week outreach; they may have bilingual staff and newspapers to reach many ethnic groups within their faith communities. Members of the clergy can speak at ceremonies and memorials. You can also honor religious communities and leaders who have found innovative ways to help victims and have mobilized the community to reduce crime.

Public Agencies

Public agencies have vast distribution networks to reach the communities they serve. Libraries, regional centers, agencies for youth and seniors, commissions for women, and ethnic community liaison agencies can link National Crime Victims' Rights Week planners to your entire community. The list below suggests how these agencies can work as NCVRW partners.

EXTEND YOUR REACH THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

Libraries

Public libraries can host forums and exhibits, display posters and brochures, display books on crime prevention and response, and offer space to community groups to plan events and strategies to protect their communities.

Minority Liaison Offices

Victims of crime in minority communities may urgently need help from the larger community. Minority community members may come from countries where authorities were not trusted and victims have no rights. They may not understand their rights, how to report crimes, or even which acts constitute crimes. Some cities and counties have employees who serve as liaisons to minority communities. These officials can help identify the greatest educational needs in these communities and devise the most useful NCVRW strategies for these populations.

Senior Agencies

Senior centers, county commissions on aging, area agencies on aging, protective services agencies, and your city, county, and state consumer protection agencies might collaborate on outreach to seniors on crimes that disproportionately affect them, such as financial fraud, scams, and elder abuse.

Public Officials

Public officials play a paramount role in National Crime Victims' Rights Week. Be sure to enlist their advice, endorsement, and support. Invite them to serve as masters of ceremony, and involve them and their staffs in the coalitions you build to support the event. Keep them posted about your progress, and publicize their contributions to National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

Schools

Working with school systems provides access to children, parents, school system staff, and entire neighborhoods. Schools can hold art, banner, poster, and essay contests to publicize National Crime Victims' Rights Week, and winners' work can be exhibited in schools and other public buildings. Middle- and high-school teens can launch their own outreach campaigns—using resources from schools' art and drama departments and communications studios—to publicize the week. Schools can host assemblies, films, debates, forums, and plays on issues the students choose to feature, and schools may grant community service credits to students who volunteer to help with National Crime Victims' Rights Week activities. ■



IDEAS FOR SPECIAL EVENTS

Every year, communities devise unique approaches to observing National Crime Victims' Rights Week. They use ceremonies, media outreach, arts and crafts, festivals and outings, contests, displays, or athletic events to raise awareness about the challenges, rights, and needs of victims of crime. Every year, the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) competitively selects jurisdictions throughout the United States to receive partial funding for public awareness events and activities during National Crime Victims' Rights

Week through its NCVRW Community Awareness Project initiative. OVC selects applicants based on proposed collaboration, innovation, community impact, media involvement, and experience with victims' issues.

This year, as your community plans its 2008 NCVRW observances, you can adapt any of the following creative ideas—many from past OVC-funded Community Awareness Projects—to explore this year's theme, "Justice for Victims. Justice for All."

National Crime Victims' Rights Week Special Events

Art Exhibits

Candlelight Vigils/Observances

Clothesline Exhibits

Commemorative Displays

- *Balloon Memorials*
- *Commemorative Quilts*
- *Empty Seat at the Table*
- *Empty Shoes*
- *Memorial Bench*
- *Memorial Walkways*
- *Memorial Walls*
- *Silhouette Display*

Community Days

Crime Victims' Rights Community Calendar

Dramatic Presentations

Educational Forums

Film Festivals

Grocery Bag Campaigns

Information Expos/Fairs

Initiative Announcements

Media Outreach

Rallies/Kickoff Events

Signs: Billboard, Poster, and Lawn Sign Campaigns

Sports Tournaments

Theater Infomercials

Training Events

Tree/Flower Plantings

Underserved Victims

- *Ethnic Communities*
- *Victims with Disabilities*

Walk/Run for Victims' Rights

Youth Events

- *Art, Poetry, and Poster Contests*
- *Community Breakfasts*
- *School Outreach*



IDEAS FOR SPECIAL EVENTS

Art Exhibits

Drawings, paintings, and visual displays powerfully convey victims' experiences, building empathy and support. Communities can organize art exhibits by inviting local artists, school art programs, victims of crime, or advocates to submit art that reflects and magnifies this year's theme. In Boston, the Massachusetts State House presented an art exhibit by girls incarcerated at the Spectrum Girls' Detention Center in Dorchester to show the impact of violence on young people. The paintings were part of the "Violence Transformed" exhibit of the Victims of Violence program at the Cambridge Health Alliance. In Raleigh, North Carolina, a Victims' Expression display presented by the Governor's Crime Commission included art, poetry, pictures, and stories. In Hamilton County, Indiana, Prevail (a victims' support organization) papered the community with creatively decorated stars, each designed by a crime victim or someone close to a victim as reminders that crime can strike anywhere.

Art can take many different forms. At a Chico, California, event cosponsored by the Abuse Prevention Council of Butte County and a host of community victim service organizations, service providers and victims presented an art project using pre-made fence sections to honor victims' rights. The fence was displayed during the week at an event held in the Crime Victims' Memorial Garden. In Gainesville, Florida, victims designed and painted tiles to be mounted onto a park gazebo during an annual NCVRW park event.

Candlelight Vigils/ Observances

Candlelight vigil ceremonies open National Crime Victims' Rights Week in Washington, DC, and in many communities throughout the nation. At state capitols, local courthouses, city halls, and other sites, communities honor victims and those who have contributed significantly to victims' lives. You can invite local officials, school groups, choirs, artists, and service groups to participate. Be sure to invite local media to cover the event, and send photos to your community newspapers and organization newsletters.

Clothesline Projects

An "Air Your Laundry in Public" display at an NCVRW event in Covington, Kentucky, included a clothesline of T-shirts painted by crime victims to depict their personal experiences. The event was part of a wider outreach campaign that included signs, flyers, posters, newspaper ads, and radio and television public service announcements in English and Spanish. Many communities throughout the nation presented similar displays to share victims' perceptions about the impact of crime on their lives, including Albuquerque, New Mexico; Concord, New Hampshire; Flushing, New York; Santa Ana, California; Orange Park, Florida; Sioux Falls, South Dakota; and Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania.

Commemorative Displays

Communities devise a rich array of visual displays to remember and honor victims of crime.

Balloon Memorials

At a candlelight ceremony in Flint, Michigan, balloons floated over the city, each commemorating a victim and each released by someone close to that victim. The event, sponsored by the Flint City Attorney's Office of Victim Advocacy Program and its partners, focused on victims and resources available for them. Also, in Columbus, Ohio, Parents Of Murdered Children released nearly 300 balloons with the names of local homicide victims, as well as 32 orange and maroon balloons to remember the victims of the Virginia Tech murders.

Commemorative Quilts

Quilts have a powerful hold on the American imagination. Early in our history, entire communities produced original designs to express their patriotism, celebrate the westward movement of American settlers, and commemorate the history of a young nation. Following that tradition, modern communities often create quilts to honor victims during National Crime Victims' Rights Week. Local businesses may donate supplies, and volunteers from schools and local organizations can each contribute a patch. You can arrange for local organizations to display the quilt during National Crime Victims' Rights Week and throughout the year. Commemorative quilts played a role in recent NCVRW observances in Fresno, California; Allentown, Harrisburg, and Lancaster, Pennsylvania; Richmond, Indiana; and Reno, Nevada.

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Empty Seat at the Table

An “Empty Seat at the Table” display paid tribute to homicide victims in Gainesville, Florida, at the NCVRW events sponsored by the Alachua County Sheriff’s Office. A similar exhibit was presented in Orange Park, Florida, at events sponsored by Quigley House, Inc., and local victim service agencies, law enforcement departments, and prosecutors’ offices.

Empty Shoes Display

At an NCVRW kickoff event in Collin County, Texas, dozens of pairs of shoes—baby shoes, tennis shoes, work boots, and flip flops in all sizes and colors—covered the courthouse lawn. Each pair of shoes represented one victim of crime who “walked through” the county criminal justice system and was helped by the victim assistance unit during the previous year.

Memorial Bench

In Dedham, Massachusetts, the Norfolk County Sheriff’s Office and its partners dedicated an engraved granite Memorial Bench to victims of crime.

Memorial Walkways

In Albany, New York, the Memorial Brick Dedication Ceremony at the New York State Crime Victims Memorial in the Empire State Plaza honors all victims of crime in the state. Each year during National Crime Victims’ Rights Week, new bricks are added to the walkway and the names on those bricks are read out loud as part of the ceremony, sponsored by the Capital District Coalition for Crime Victims’ Rights, Inc.

Memorial Walls

In Atlanta, Georgia, a memorial wall of those murdered in Metro Atlanta from 1991 to 2006 was on display at a ceremony held by the Crime Victim’s

Advocacy Council, the Metro Atlanta District Attorney’s Office, and the U.S. Attorney’s Office. Other observances featured similar memorial wall displays, such as those in Pine Bluff, Arkansas; in Binghamton, New York; and at Southern Illinois University in Belleville, Missouri.

Silhouette Displays

At the Rochester, New York, Civic Center Plaza, a group of red, life-size silhouettes stood silently, representing women killed by domestic violence. This Silent Witness exhibit, one of several local NCVRW events, drew legislators who want to strengthen laws against domestic violence. Dallas, Texas, presented a similar silhouette display at the Collin County Courthouse during National Crime Victims’ Rights Week.

Community Days

Family fun days rally entire communities around a worthy cause. Sponsors may offer food, music, drawings, games, puppet shows, and other popular attractions. In Fredericksburg, Virginia, the Rappahannock Council Against Sexual Assault and its partners held a Family Fun Day for Crime Victims’ Rights and collaborated with area restaurants to distribute information about victimization. In Pahoehoe, Hawaii, Neighborhood Place of Puna and its partners held a resource fair and family activity—with games and crafts—called “Celebrate Your Family/Cherish the Children.”

Crime Victims’ Rights Community Calendar

Calendars featuring victim-centered events can raise your community’s awareness throughout the entire year.

In Shreveport, Louisiana, the Caddo Parish Sheriff’s Office and its partners distributed a calendar featuring victim service information. NCVRW organizers in Allen County, Indiana, distributed free copies of the Crime Victims’ Rights Community Calendar, with inserts about community service providers, local and nationwide crime victimization, statistical information on violence and crime victims’ rights, and contact information for all community victim service providers and their special events, as well as national toll-free victim assistance telephone numbers.

Dramatic Presentations

A survivor’s monologue titled “Revealing Frankie” was featured at the “Day of Healing and Education” held by the Anna Maria College’s Molly Bish Center for the Protection of Children and the Elderly and its partners in Paxton, Massachusetts. Also, Pennsylvania State University’s Misciagna Family Center for the Performing Arts in Altoona presented “Body in Motion,” a powerful drama based on Howard Zehr’s *Transcending: Reflection of Crime Victims*, a book of photographs and essays drawn from interviews with crime victims throughout the country.

Educational Forums

During National Crime Victims’ Rights Week, the New York State Sheriffs’ Association Institute, Inc., hosted the first statewide New York State conference on victim notification systems, and the New York counties of Cattaraugus and Erie held conferences on domestic violence. Winona, Minnesota, County Victim Services and its partners presented “Navigating the Criminal Justice System,” featuring a panel

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discussion by crime victims about their experience in the criminal justice system and presentations by probation agents on the role of supervising offenders. Boise State University, Idaho, Department of Criminal Justice, held workshops on victimization for students and the public. In Clovis, New Mexico, the 9th Judicial District Attorney's Office and victim agencies presented workshops and offered information on local services for victims.

Film Festivals

Films can galvanize support for victims. At George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia, NCVRW event organizers showed *Breaking out of the Man Box*, a movie and discussion designed for men by men that offers concrete approaches for ending violence against women. In Mariposa, California, Six Street Cinemas partnered with NCVRW planners to feature nightly films and discussions about victims, advertised through the local paper and community listservs.

Grocery Store Campaigns

Grocery stores offer a great medium to share information with entire communities. NCVRW organizers use grocery bags, grocery bag inserts, grocery store windows and bulletin boards, and grocery carts to distribute messages. The City of Warsaw, Indiana, Police Department/Victim Assistance Program, which worked with community and victim service organizations, and the Cochise County Attorney's Victim Witness Program and its partners in Bisbee, Arizona, advertised National Crime Victims' Rights Week through grocery bag inserts.

Information Expos/Fairs

Information "expos" and fairs attract wide audiences. In Santa Ana, California, the Victim Assistance Programs of Community Service Programs, Inc., and their community partners held a victims' rights week information and resource fair at the local college campus. College instructors incorporated victims' rights information into their curricula, and students received "Shop for Solutions" shopping bags to take to providers' information booths. In Albuquerque, New Mexico, the Governor's Office of Victim Advocacy and its partners hosted a Public Safety/Victim Rights Awareness Fair that included family activities, art contests, poetry readings by victims, and other NCVRW events. Rice County, Minnesota, held a "Passport to Justice" fair in both the county courthouse and the Veteran Services Administration building, where "travelers" could stop at individual "stations" to learn about victim services through quizzes and games. At each stop, participants' passports were stamped and they received a prize, which included the community crisis hotline number or a list of community victim assistance resources.

Initiative Announcements

Many states and localities chose National Crime Victims' Rights Week to introduce legislation or announce initiatives to advance victims' rights. Alabama announced its new domestic violence protocols handbook; Indiana, its new VINE victim notification program; Missouri, new publications on domestic violence and crime victims' rights; Mount Vernon, New York, its anti-identity theft program; Oregon, its

new victims' rights Web site; and Palm Springs, California, its victims' bill of rights.

Media Outreach

Many communities worked with local newspapers and radio and television stations to reach the widest possible audiences. In Anchorage, Alaska, the media campaign of Victims for Justice and its community partners announced the week's events and provided information on victims' rights and services through public service announcements; radio, television, and print advertisements; posters; flyers; and other materials. Also in West Memphis, Arkansas, the media campaign by the Mayor's Victim Advocacy Program and its collaborators included king-size posters on the exterior of public transportation buses, public service announcements on the local cable access channel, newspaper press releases, a new victims' rights card in English and Spanish for law enforcement to distribute, display boards, posters, and NCVRW promotional items such as bookmarks, key chains, ribbons, and bumper stickers.

Rallies/Kickoff Events

Many communities kick off their NCVRW observance with rallies and ceremonies to honor victims of crime. Kentucky's opening rally, presided over by the state attorney general, honored victims, victim advocates, families of victims, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and community volunteers. Other communities—such as Winona, Minnesota, and Sioux Falls, South Dakota—held "Take Back the Night" rallies focused on sexual assaults and other crimes that often

take place at night. Hundreds of communities (including Biloxi, Mississippi; Des Moines, Iowa; Huntington, West Virginia; and Miami, Florida) held ceremonies, luncheons, and dinners to honor victims of crime and those who serve them.

Signs: Billboard, Poster, and Lawn Sign Campaigns

Billboards, posters, lawn signs, and signs in retailers' windows are low-tech, high-impact public awareness tools. The Chico, California, Child Abuse Prevention Council of Butte County and its partners used four billboards in four towns during National Crime Victims' Rights Week and bus posters throughout the county for the entire month. In Hawaii, where billboards are not allowed, the Neighborhood Place of Puna and its partners waved signs along the highways and printed "shoe cards" with emergency numbers and contact information for victim-serving organizations.

Sports Tournaments

In Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, the Corrections Corporation of America, the Arizona Department of Corrections, and the Oklahoma Department of Corrections held the Governor's Cup Golf Tournament for Crime Victims' Rights to benefit the Oklahoma Crime Victims' Assistance Fund and the Oklahoma Correctional Employees' Memorial. In New Orleans, Louisiana, the Crescent House Healing and Empowerment Center and its partners promoted National Crime Victims' Rights Week by hosting a 3-on-3 basketball tournament in which all participants signed a non-violence

pledge and received information on victimization.

Theater Infomercials

NCVRW "infomercials," produced through partnerships with local theaters, build public awareness about victimization. For ten weeks, Kenai, Alaska, theaters played infomercials (slides with a brief audiotaped narrative) advertising local victims' services and distributed brochures and informational bookmarks to ticket holders. In Mariposa, California, organizers purchased theater ad space to promote awareness about victims' rights and to publicize phone numbers of local service agencies. In Salamanca, New York, Cattaraugus Community Action, Inc., and the Seneca Nation of Indians and their partners promoted National Crime Victims' Rights Week with a two-minute movie trailer on the effects of crime; in Utica, New York, the YMCA of the Mohawk Valley developed a 15-second crime victims' awareness infomercial to be shown during the intermission at local movie theaters.

Training Events

In Arizona and Utah, the attorneys general hosted forums on serving victims in isolated communities; in Kansas, the governor and attorney general hosted the state's tenth annual conference on crime victims' rights. At Boise State University, the Idaho Department of Criminal Justice held workshops on victimization for the general public. Clovis, New Mexico, held victims' resource forums, and in College Station, Texas, the Rape Crisis Center of Brazos held a two-day conference on crimes against all victims.

Tree and Flower Plantings

Tree- and flower-planting ceremonies send a message of life and hope. Each year in Oswego County, New York, a different community is chosen to host a tree-planting ceremony in honor of victims of crime. In other states, communities that held tree plantings included Albuquerque, New Mexico; Detroit, Michigan; and Gainesville, Florida. Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, held a flower-planting ceremony in the victims' garden at the attorney general's office. At a Victims for Justice Tree Ceremony in Anchorage, Alaska, the public tied ribbons of different colors around trees to represent different types of crimes, and in Flint, Michigan, ribbons to commemorate victims were tied to a tree outside city hall. Brockton, Massachusetts, community groups unveiled a peace garden in a downtown park, in one of the city's high-crime neighborhoods.

Underserved-Population Campaigns

Ethnic Communities

In Dublin, Georgia, the Victim Witness Assistance Program of the District Attorney's Office held a Meet & Greet event for underserved populations, including the local Hispanic and Indian communities. The Korean American Family Service Center in Flushing, New York, and the New York University Asian/Pacific/American Institute and APA youth alliance issued NCVRW public service announcements and held an event targeting young people in the Asian/Pacific/American community. In Baker City, Oregon, Mayday, Inc., the police department, and its partners worked with local grocery chains to

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advertise National Crime Victims' Rights Week and offer victim assistance information in many languages, including Korean, Chinese, Hmong, Tagalog, and Indian. A similar campaign in Blaine, Minnesota, distributed bookmarks with information about victim services in English, Russian, and Spanish.

Many NCVRW outreach campaigns included bilingual outreach materials, such as flyers for the Victims' Rights Community Day in McAllen, Texas; billboards in Gatesville, Texas; magnets, bookmarks, and victims' rights handouts at resource booths in Bisbee, Arizona; victims' rights cards in West Memphis, Arkansas; brochures in Chico, California; public service announcements in Inverness, Florida; business storefront poster campaigns in Adel, Iowa, and Brockton, Massachusetts; and bumper stickers in Hewitt, New Jersey.

Persons with Disabilities

In Hartford, Connecticut, the Aetna Foundation Children's Center, Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center, and its community partners, including Deaf service organizations, launched a campaign directed to the Deaf community. Activities included a video service announcement in American Sign Language about victimization and victims' rights and services, "Deaf Coffee Chat" information sessions at Deaf community gatherings, and a 40-minute film (titled "Do Tell") for the Deaf about child abuse and neglect. A media campaign in Inverness, Florida, included public service announcements in American Sign Language on television, radio, and movie theaters. In Portland, Oregon, Portland State University, the Brain Injury Association

of Oregon, and partners distributed "Disability Awareness and Crime Victims' Rights Toolkits" with videos, guidebooks, posters, and other resources for victims with disabilities.

Walk or Run for National Crime Victims' Rights Week

Tribes United in Victim Awareness March

At the "Tribes United in Victim Awareness" march in Nevada, six tribes walked 20 miles from their homes and met at a central point to sign a memorandum of understanding to combat child abuse, domestic violence, and elder abuse. At the joint celebration that followed, the tribes distributed promotional items about victims' rights and services. The event was sponsored by the Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe, Walker River Paiute Tribe, Yerington Paiute Tribe, Yomba Shoshone Tribe, McDermitt Paiute Tribe, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, the Nevada Statewide Native American Coalition, and victim services program staff.

In Bisbee, Arizona, the Cochise County Attorney's Victim Witness Program and its community partners held an NCVRW Walk/Run. Communities that held similar events for victims included Belleville and Chicago, Illinois; Golden, Colorado; Knoxville, Texas; Los Angeles, California; New Orleans, Louisiana; Richmond, Indiana; and Torrance, California. Yuma, Arizona, held a "Walk a Mile in Their Shoes" walkathon to honor victims of crime.

Youth Events

Art, Poster, Poetry, and Essay Contests

Contests can deepen entire communities' understanding of what it means to be a victim of crime.

In Adel, Iowa, the Crisis Intervention and Advocacy Center, working with local high schools, a printing company, businesses, and grocery stores, sponsored a poster art contest in three local county high schools. Local libraries displayed the posters for judging, and the local newspaper printed the winning poster. Kalamazoo, Michigan, held a teen essay contest on bullying, and Staten Island, New York, held a poster contest on teen relationship abuse. The Coryell County Crime Victims' Office in Gatesville, Texas, held a poster contest with elementary and middle-school students (with a nonviolence and victims' rights theme).

Community Breakfasts

In West Memphis, Arkansas, the Mayor's Victim Advocacy Program and its community partners hosted a child identification day and a "Kids Are Our Business" breakfast to promote National Crime Victims' Rights Week. The Rape and Abuse Crisis Center of Fargo-Moorhead, North Dakota, worked with local law enforcement and schools to host a "Kids Are Our Business" breakfast, focused on child abuse. The partners followed up the breakfasts with public service announcements on local cable stations.

Outreach to Schools

In Montgomery, Alabama, VOCAL (a victim services organization) collaborated with the county school system to distribute crime victim resource information at assemblies in each middle school and high school. The Flint, Michigan, City Attorney's Office Victim Advocacy Program made presentations at four local high schools to explore violent crime and its impact. Also, the Foothills Alliance and its partners in Anderson, South Carolina, made presentations to middle- and high-school students about safety and preventing assaults. ■



